

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155799
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
SS-15 SSO-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE:DD
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE
NEA/P:MBARRY (DRAFT)
-----061911 052155Z /72

O R 052147Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 155799

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PK, US

SUBJECT: NOON BRIEFING: JULY 5

THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE NOON BRIEFING ON
JULY 5:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE REPORTED CHANGE OF
GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN?

A. WELL, WHEN YOU SAY INFORMATION, MARVIN, WHAT SPECIFI-
CALLY ARE YOU ASKING ME?

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE INFORMATION I READ ON THE
WIRES IS CORRECT.

A. WELL, THE INFORMATION ON THE WIRES IS THAT THERE HAS
BEEN A - THAT THE ARMED FORCES OF PAKISTAN HAVE TAKEN
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INTO CUSTODY THE LEADERS OF PAKISTAN AND THE OPPOSITION
LEADERS. I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO DOUBT THOSE REPORTS,
OF COURSE, MARVIN, BUT IF YOU ARE ASKING ME FOR COMMENT
IN IT, I WOULD NOT HAVE ANY TO MAKE SINCE THOSE EVENTS
ARE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS ON WHICH WE DON'T HAVE COMMENT.

Q. CAN YOU CORROBORATE THOSE REPORTS?

A. CAN I CONFIRM?

Q. YES.

A. I CAN CONFIRM THAT OUR EMBASSY HAS REPORTED LARGELY WHAT WE HAVE ALL READ, AGAIN ALL READ, IN THE PRESS.

Q. NO EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THE END OF DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST DEMOCRACY?

A. I SAID WE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT, GEORGE.

Q. IT IS KIND OF ARGUMENTATIVE BUT I'LL GO AHEAD ANYWAY. HOW COME WE HAVE COMMENTS WHEN SOME INDIVIDUAL GUY GETS ARRESTED BUT IF YOU THROW OUT THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND ARREST HIM AND THE WHOLE OPPOSITION, WE DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT?

A. DON, MY ANSWER IS JUST AS I HAVE GIVEN IT. I'M NOT IN THE POSITION TO GO BEYOND IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE SPEECH MADE BY GENERAL ZIA ON THE SITUATION THERE?

A. NO, I COULD ADD ONLY ONE THING AND THAT IS WE UNDER-
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STAND THE COUNTRY IS CALM; COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY; NO INDICATION OF ANY DISTURBANCE WHICH WOULD AFFECT AMERICANS OR ANY OTHER FOREIGNERS IN PAKISTAN.

Q. CARRYING ON DON'S POINT, THERE IS USUALLY A COMMENT WHEN THERE IS A MILITARY TAKEOVER AND THE END OF A DEMOCRACY. I MEAN, CAN YOU SEEK A COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO SEEK A COMMENT BECAUSE I DON'T- AS I SAY THAT IS AN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH WE WON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT. AS ANSWERING DON'S QUESTION, PERHAPS I COULD SAY THAT WE CHOOSE-WE'LL CHOOSE TO SPEAK AT A TIME AND PLACE OF OUR OWN CHOICE AND SOMETIMES WE SAY THINGS AND SOMETIMES WE DO NOT.

Q. DO YOU HOPE TO HAVE BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT THAN WITH MR. BHUTTO'S?

A. WELL, WE WOULD HOPE THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CORDIAL.
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ISecure: 1
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